United Nations ECE/CES/2014/15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 January 2014

English only

## Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

**Sixty-second plenary session**
Paris, 9-11 April 2014
Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda
**Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists**

# Implementation of the 2013 Statistical Programme and list of meetings held

**Note by the Secretariat**

*Summary*

The document provides information on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2013. The report is based on the information in an online reporting system, the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System, used within the United Nations secretariat. The note provides brief description of the main accomplishments; lists outputs prepared such as publications, recommendations and guidelines, global assessments, databases and websites; and includes a list of meetings organised in 2013.

A final evaluation of the accomplishments will be provided in the Biennial Evaluation Report 2012-2013 that will be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians (document ECE/CES/2014/14).

The document is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the report in January 2014.

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# I. Description of the main accomplishments in 2013

## A. Coordination of international statistical work in the Economic Commission for Europe region

1. International statistical work was reviewed in depth in six areas to improve inter-agency coordination and eliminate overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in ECE region. The reviews addressed statistics related to population ageing; banking, insurance and financial statistics; poverty statistics; political and other community activities; big data; and entrepreneurship. As a follow-up to these reviews, international work was launched to improve the availability of ageing-related statistics and to provide guidance on big data in official statistics. A seminar to discuss the way forward in poverty measurement was held in December 2013 and it recommended launching new work to develop a coherent set of indicators to measure absolute and relative poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

2. In 2013, 26 international organizations provided information to the ECE Database on International Statistical Activities (DISA) for coordination of work. This includes 4 UN City Groups and inter-secretariat working groups, as well as the global Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). Full use of the DISA classification, developed by ECE, was made by the international consortium on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange, and the United Nations Statistics Division in their global inventory of statistical standards.

## B. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database

3. Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the ECE statistical database. The new clearing house for harmonizing migration data of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, launched in 2012, was developed further as a tool for data confrontation.

4. The timeliness, completeness, reliability and comparability of the statistical database were improved. In the end of 2013, in total 158 statistical time series were available in the database with 7 new series of the migration clearing house.

5. User satisfaction remained high, with two online surveys indicating that 84 per cent of users considered the quality of data as excellent or good. In 2012-2013, data downloads increased by 41 per cent compared to 2010-2011. Automated data collection processes developed by ECE increased the timeliness and reliability of data, and a new web interface improved functionalities and visualization of data.

## C. Methodological work

6. In 2013, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau endorsed four methodological guidelines that were developed in

cooperation with countries and partners, such as Eurostat and OECD: CES recommendations on measuring sustainable development; A stock-taking report on measuring human capital; A compilation of good practices in human resources management and training; and Guidelines for harmonizing time use surveys.

7. In 2013, ECE contributed to the drafting of several publications with recommendations for good practices, prepared jointly with international organizations, to provide recommendations and good practices to ensure comparability of statistics. Most of these publications were prepared jointly and in cooperation with major partners, such as Eurostat, OECD, IMF, UNSD and others (see publications and manuals in part II).

8. Two draft recommendations were prepared in 2013 for endorsement by the Conference in 2014, namely on gender equality indicators and climate change related statistics.

9. In 2013, ECE also participated in the development of a number of projects undertaken by other international organizations, including the United Nations Statistics Division, OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

10. ECE undertook methodological work in 27 out of 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities (DISA).

### D. Capacity building

11. In 2013, ECE carried out 11 training workshops with the support of the regular budget, the budget for technical cooperation, funding from the United Nations development account and external funding sources. In addition, a number of advisory missions were conducted at the request of countries.

12. The progress in implementing international standards and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was analysed by Global Assessments of national statistical systems. ECE, with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the World Bank, carried out in 2013 Global Assessments in Belarus, Georgia and Mongolia.

13. In total, 89 per cent of experts who took part in ECE training workshops considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work. ECE provided advisory services in 12 statistical areas to support the countries in achieving better compliance with international standards and good practices.

## II. Outputs prepared in 2013

### A. Manuals, guidelines, recommendations, compilations of best practices

14. All manuals and guidelines are available at the following address: www.unece.org/statshome/publications-amp-resources/publications.html

(a) *CES Recommendations on Measuring Sustainable Development*

15. The report presents recommendations for measuring sustainable development and suggests sustainable development indicators that can be used for international comparison.

(b) *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time Use Surveys*

16. The publication facilitates the exchange of good practice and defines the concepts, methodology and ways of aggregation of time use survey results.

(c) *A Stock-Taking Report on Measuring Human Capital*

17. Following a CES seminar in June 2011, a small group prepared a stock-taking report providing an overview of what has been done in the field of human capital measurement.

(d) *Compilation of Good Practices in Human Resources Management and Training*

18. The compilation of good practices is based on over 20 papers selected from the seminars organised on the topic in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

(e) *Practices of UNECE Countries in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses*

19. The publication reviews UNECE countries' practices during the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, and will provide input for the new CES recommendations.

(f) *Getting the Facts Right: A Guide to Presenting Metadata with Examples on MDGs*

20. The handbook is guide to producing, managing and presenting metadata with a specific focus is on metadata for the Millennium Development Goal indicators.

(g) *Indicators of Gender Equality* (to be submitted to CES in 2014)

21. The publication identifies the key indicators that UNECE countries would be able to produce in order to improve monitoring of gender equality.

(h) *Recommendations on Climate Change Related Statistics* (to be submitted to CES in 2014)

22. The report provides recommendations for improving climate change related statistics of national statistical systems and enhancing their utility for greenhouse gas inventories.

## B. Global Assessments

23. Three global assessments were carried out: in Belarus, Georgia and Mongolia, in collaboration with Eurostat, EFTA and the World Bank.

## C. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database

24. The statistical database is available at: http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/, providing:

- Macroeconomic data (national accounts main aggregates, industrial production, labour force, population, wages, price indices, purchasing power parities, exchange rates, balance of payments, external debt);
- Social and demographic data with gender breakdown (population, fertility, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life and decision making, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT, and life balance);
- Regional MDG database covering indicators all 8 Millennium Development Goals for more than 30 countries;
- Transport statistics and forestry statistics provided by other UNECE Divisions;
- New Clearinghouse for Migration statistics for the countries of the CIS countries.

## D. Websites

- UNECE Statistical Division's website: www.unece.org/stats
- Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) 2013: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DISA2013
- Statistical database website: http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/
- UNECE Data Locator: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DLoc/Welcome+to+the+UNECE+Data+Locator
- Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos: www.unece.org/stats/gender.html
- Library of training materials on statistics: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train
- Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/dashboard.action
    - High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services
    - Big Data
    - 2008 System of National Accounts implementation
    - Human resources management and training in statistical offices
    - K-base: Data editing knowledge base
    - Measuring violence against women
    - Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) wiki

- Population and Housing Censuses several wikis for Task Forces
- Price index Processor software
- Statistical metadata (METIS), including the Common Metadata Framework and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model
- Administrative and Secondary Sources in Statistics (ASSIST)
- Statistical Literacy
- Statistical Network
- Several wikis for active Task Forces and one for the CES Bureau

# III. List of meetings organized in 2013

25. All documents for the meetings are available at: www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html

| *No.* | *Meeting (venue)* | *Date* | *Capacity Building* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Task Force on global production (Geneva, Switzerland) | 21-22 January | |
| 2 | High-Level group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (Luxembourg) | 5 February | |
| 3 | Third meeting of the 2012-2013 CES Bureau (Luxembourg) | 5-6 February | |
| 4 | Regional workshop on economic classifications (Kishinev, Moldova) | 19-21 March | X |
| 5 | Meetings on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland)<br>*Group of Experts on National Accounts - interim meeting on Global Production*<br>*Task Force on Global Production* | 3-5 April<br>3-4 April<br>5 April | |
| 6 | Sprint meeting on statistical business architecture (Ottawa, Canada) | 8-12 April | |
| 7 | Task Force on climate change related statistics (Geneva, Switzerland) | 22-23 April | |
| 8 | Meeting on the management of statistical information systems (Geneva, Switzerland) | 23-25 April | |
| 9 | Work Session on statistical metadata (Geneva, Switzerland) | 6-8 May | |
| 10 | Workshop on agri-environmental statistics (Budva, Montenegro) | 13-15 May | X |
| 11 | Work Session on the communication of statistics (Berlin, Germany) | 27-29 May | |
| 12 | Training workshop on PC-Axis (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) | 3-7 June | X |
| 13 | 61st plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, Switzerland) | 10-12 June | |
| 14 | Follow-up to Rio+20: measuring sustainable development and implementing the System of | 12-13 June | X |

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| | Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) (Geneva, Switzerland) | | |
| 15 | 8th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics (PWGS) (Geneva, Switzerland) | 13 June | X |
| 16 | Sprint meeting on proof of concept design (Rome, Italy) | 10-14 June | |
| 17 | High-Level group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland) | 14 June | |
| 18 | Joint UNECE/EFTA/Eurostat High-Level Seminar on Global Assessments and Peer Reviews – follow-up and next steps (Alushta, Ukraine) | 25-27 June | X |
| 19 | National training workshops on presenting metadata for the Millennium Development Goals (Baku, Azerbaijan and Tbilisi, Yerevan) | 2-5 July | X |
| 20 | Group of experts on Business Registers (Geneva, Switzerland) | 2-4 September | |
| 21 | Group of experts on measuring quality of employment (Geneva, Switzerland) | 11-13 September | |
| 22 | Seminar on data collection (Geneva, Switzerland) | 25-27 September | |
| 23 | Meetings on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland) | 30 September – 4 October | |
| | *Group of experts on population and housing censuses* | 30 September – 4 October | |
| | *Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses* | 4 October | X |
| 24 | Meetings on climate change related statistics (Geneva, Switzerland) | 8-9 October | |
| | *Meeting on climate change related statistics for producers and users* | 8-9 October | |
| | *Task Force on climate change related statistics* | 9 October | |
| 25 | High-level seminar on Population Censuses and migration statistics in CIS Countries (Gelendzhik, Russian Federation) | 16-18 October | X |
| 26 | Meeting of the 2013-2014 CES Bureau (Geneva, Switzerland) | 21-22 October | |
| 27 | Work session on statistical data confidentiality (Geneva, Switzerland) | 28-20 October | |
| 28 | Joint Eurostat/UNECE work session on demographic projections (Rome, Italy) | 29-31 October | |
| 29 | Capacity-building workshop on migration statistics (Almaty, Kazakhstan) | 31 October - 1 November | X |
| 30 | Joint task force on environmental indicators (Geneva, Switzerland) | 5-7 November | X |
| 31 | Second workshop on waste statistics (Geneva, Switzerland) | 4 November | X |
| 32 | Sprint meeting on the Generic Statistical Information Model (Geneva, Switzerland) | 18-22 November | |
| 33 | Joint workshop on implementation of 2008 SNA and links to government finance statistics (Istanbul, Turkey) | 20-22 November | X |

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| 34 | Workshop on the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland) | 25-27 November |
| 35 | High-Level group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland) | 27 November |
| 36 | Seminar "The way forward in poverty measurement" (Geneva, Switzerland) | 2-4 December |